

Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USSS-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 SY-03 FBIE-00 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1034

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, MX

SUBJECT: SITREP NO. 57: PATTERSON KIDNAPPING: APRIL 4
MORNING PRESS ROUNDUP

1. LA PRENSA, PAGE 23 SAYS: "JOHN PATTERSON IS ALIVE, HIS KIDNAPPERS ARE NOT MEXICANS BUT OF AMERICAN ORIGIN AND THEY POSSIBLY TOOK HIM TO THE UNITED STATES. MIGUEL NASAR HARO, SUBDIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL SECURITY AND THE MAN WHO PERSONALLY COORDINATES THE INVESTIGATION, SAID THIS WAS ONE OF THE MOST SOLID HYPOTHESIS." THE SECURITY OFFICER (NAZAR) TOLD THE PRESS THAT INVESTIGATIONS HAVE NOT TURNED UP ONE SOLID BIT OF EVIDENCE BUT THAT HIS GUESS IS BASED ON LOGIC. NASAR DENIED THAT AN AMERICAN WOMAN WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY AS A SUSPECT IN THE CASE AND SAID THE KEY TO THE SOLUTION IS THE AMERICAN-LOOKING MAN WHO ACCOMPANIED PATTERSON ON THE DAY OF HIS DISAPPEARANCE. NASAR SAID A COMPOSITE PORTRAIT OF THIS MAN HAS BEEN MADE AND IS BEING DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE AREA TO HELP LOCATE THE VICECONSUL. HE REJECTED VERSIONS THAT PATTERSON CASE IS CONNECTED TO THE KIDNAPPING OF CONSUL LEONHARDY IN GUADALAJARA SOME TIME AGO.

2. NASAR ALSO TOLD REPORTERS THAT PATTERSON'S HANDWRITING - CALM AND WITHOUT ANY ABRUPT LINES- INDICATES THAT HE WAS FAMILIAR
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WITH HIS KIDNAPPERS AND PROBABLY COLLABORATED.

3. HE POINTED OUT THAT INVESTIGATIONS ARE UNDERWAY IN THE UNITED STATES TOO SINCE PATTERSON MIGHT BE HIDING THERE. HE ALSO STRESSED THAT UNTIL NOW THERE HAS BEEN NO FORMAL DENUNCIATION OF PATTERSON'S DISAPPEARANCE TO MEXICAN AUTHORITIES.

4. NEWSMEN ACCOSTED CONSUL GENERAL YELTON ASKING HIM FOR A COPY OF THE RANSOM LETTER SO THERE WOULD BE NO MORE SPECULATION BUT HE REFUSED SAYING HE HAD NO AUTHORITY FROM WASHINGTON TO DO THIS. NEWS REPORTERS NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH YELTON WAS DUE FOR RETIREMENT SOME DAYS AGO HE IS STILL AT HIS POST BECAUSE OF PATTERSON'S DISAPPEARANCE.

5. EL HERALDO, PAGE 14 HEADLINED: "VICECONSUL'S KIDNAPPING BEGINS TO CLEAR UP". THE STORY CONTAINS, BASICALLY, THE SAME INFORMATION AS LA PRENSA WITH THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT MRS. PATTERSON'S FORMER HUSBAND HAS BEEN INVESTIGATED AND CLEARED. THE HERALDO REPORTER ALSO QUOTES NASAR HARO AS SAYING POLICE NOW KNOW THE MAKE OF THE VEHICLE TO WHICH PATTERSON AND HIS COMPANION TRANSFERRED AFTER ABANDONING THE CONSULATE'S VEHICLE. THIS INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED THROUGH PLASTER CASTS OF THE TIRE PRINTS AT THE GAS STATION.

6. EL SOL, PAGE 8, AGREES WITH OTHER STORIES BUT GIVES ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE MAN WHO ACCOMPANIED PATTERSON SAYING THAT "IT IS KNOWN THAT THE AMERICAN WHO WENT WITH PATTERSON WAS SEEN 15 DAYS BEFORE THE KIDNAPPING, ROAMING AROUND THE CONSULAR OFFICES AND HE EVEN MET A COUPLE OF TIMES WITH THE DIPLOMAT (PATTERSON).

7. EXCELSIOR, PAGE 7-D, SAYS "DFS HAS COMPOSITE PORTRAIT OF AMERICAN WHO ACCOMPANIED PATTERSON THE DAY OF HIS KIDNAPPING." ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THIS STORY QUOTES NASAR AS SAYING "DEFINITELY ON THIS CASE THERE WAS NO INTERVENTION OF ANY MEXICAN SUBVERSIVE GROUP AND IT IS THE WORK OF FOREIGNERS LOOKING FOR ECONOMIC GAINS." STORY SAYS TOO THAT UNOFFICIALLY ONE OF THE PARAGRAPHS OF THE RANSOM LETTER WAS REVEALED TO THE PRESS AND SAYS: "MY KIDNAPPING SHOULD NOT BE REVEALED TO THE PRESS OR TO THE POLICE -- SO THAT OTHERS WON'T USE IT AS AN EXAMPLE. PAYMENT OF THE RANSOM MUST BE MADE BY MY WIFE AT THE FRY MARCOS HOTEL AND UNCLASSIFIED

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AFTER SHE DELIVERS THE FIRST PART OF THE MONEY, THEY WILL LET HER TALK TO ME." THE EXCELSIOR REPORTER VICTOR PAYAN ALSO SAYS THAT THE BLACK SUITCASE WITH THE MONEY SENT OVER TO MEXICO CITY TO PAY THE OTHER HALF OF THE RANSOM MONEY RETURNED YESTERDAY TO HERMOSILLO.
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